

3. What actually happened, and when?

- It wasn't the night Jesus was born, it was later
- They gave gifts that spoke of kingship, humanity, and purpose.
- They were extremely excited...and satisfied with what they saw
- They took a huge risk in not telling Herod

Matthew 2:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

4. The rest of the story

- Multiple prophecies are fulfilled
- Herod commits murder in Bethlehem
- Mary and Joseph take off for Egypt
- Herod dies anyway...badly

Matthew 2:13-23 (NIV)

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

"Herod died of this, ulcerated entrails, putrefied and maggot-filled organs, constant convulsions, foul breath, and neither physicians nor warm baths led to recovery." -Josephus (Antiquities)

"Herod & the Magi"

Pastor Lance Brown
December 27, 2015

1. Who was Herod?

- Herod "the Great" born in 73 B.C. and began his reign in 37 B.C.
- Named "King of Judea" by Roman Senate
- Killed his favorite wife, and several sons to preserve power.
- Made himself incredibly wealthy through aggressive taxation
- Spent vast amounts of money on huge building projects

Matthew 2:1-6 (NIV)

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ '"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"

2. Who were the Magi?

- We don't really know if they were kings
- We do know they came from the East, following a star
- Were likely educated in culture, science, and religion. (wise men)
- They were the FIRST "Christ-followers"

Matthew 2:7-10 (NIV)

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

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